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September 5, 2002

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554 SEP - 5 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re:

Notice of Ex Parte Communication in CS Docket Nos. 98-120,

00-96 & 00-2

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 4, 2002, Jon Blake and Ellen Goodman of Covington & Burling; Michael Berg of Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.; and Doug Macrae of VideoGuide, Inc., on behalf of Gemstar-TV Guide International, Inc. ("Gemstar"), met separately with Catherine Bohigian, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin, and Alexis Johns, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, to discuss what constitutes "program-related material" in the digital context. On September 5, 2002, Jon Blake and Amy Levine of Covington & Burling, Michael Berg, and Doug Macrae met with Commissioner Abernathy; her Senior Legal Advisor, Bryan Tramont; and Curtis Stamp, Intern to Commissioner Abernathy, regarding the same issue and distributed the attached handout.

We discussed how best to determine what constitutes "program-related material" in the digital context and why EPGs should fall within the scope of what is program-related. The Commission has full authority, and a great opportunity, to interpret program-relatedness in a way that makes sense for, and facilitates the development of, digital technologies, including EPGs. A flexible approach to determining what counts as "program-related material" is consistent with the intent of the Commission at the time it adopted the WGN test as guidance. It is also consistent with the WGN decision and the 1992 Cable Act and will benefit consumers by allowing them to take advantage of innovative new technologies with the potential to greatly enhance the viewing experience.

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Sincerely,

Michael D. Berg

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Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

Jonathan D. Blake Covington & Burling

Counsel to Gemstar-TV Guide International, Inc.

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Mr. Bryan Tramont Ms. Alexis Johns

Ms. Catherine C. Bohigian